



1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, American democracy was conceived as a vision where
3 government derives its authority through the consent of the
4 governed and that democracy succeeds best when the governed are
5 active and responsible participants; and

6 WHEREAS, Abraham Lincoln, in whose legacy the State of
7 Illinois stands, thoughtfully captured the idea of
8 self-governance in the Gettysburg Address when he said ours is
9 "the government of the people, by the people and for the
10 people"; and

11 WHEREAS, Recent studies have found that civic education in
12 our schools is inadequate and not a priority; and

13 WHEREAS, Studies have found that an overwhelming majority
14 of students lack a proficient understanding of civics, United
15 States history, and America's constitutional heritage; and

16 WHEREAS, Young people between the ages of 18 and 25 vote at
17 lower rates than any other age group; and

18 WHEREAS, Without an involved and informed citizenry, the
19 goals of democracy are threatened; and

20 WHEREAS, The Illinois Civic Mission Coalition and the
21 Campaign for the Civic Mission of Schools are working to create
22 ideas and develop ways in which the connection between civic
23 education and democracy can flourish; and

24 WHEREAS, It is our collective obligation to provide young
25 people with the opportunity to apply what they learn through
26 authentic civic learning and community service experiences
27 intentionally linked to formal curriculum and classroom
28 instruction; and

1 WHEREAS, Illinois Democracy Schools have the potential to
2 achieve that shared responsibility; therefore, be it

3 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
4 NINETY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
5 the concept suggested by the Democracy Schools Initiative
6 should be implemented, when and where appropriate, by school
7 boards, principals, teachers, students, parents, and the
8 community as models for a place in which the rights,
9 obligations, and responsibilities of citizenship are fostered
10 and in which student leadership is encouraged.